

To: Montana Business and Labor Committee
Re: House Bill 665: Licensure and Regulation of Athletic Trainers
From: Elizabeth Ikeda, PT, DPT, MS, MTC, OCS
Date: February 20, 2007

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Elizabeth (Beth) Ikeda and I am an Associate Professor of Physical Therapy (PT) at The University of Montana. I have taught in the Physical Therapy Program for 17 years and have taught athletic training (AT) students in classes within our curriculum prior to our conversion to the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. In the past, I acted as a consultant for the AT program during their accreditation. In addition, I am board certified in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy and practice part time. I see a variety of patients, including collegiate and professional athletes.

Thank you for allowing me to speak today in support of HB 665 as presented by Representative Arntzen. This bill will protect athletes in organized sports from receiving care provided by unqualified personnel. In addition, it appropriately designates the population that athletic trainers have been educated to serve.

Physical therapists were opposed to this bill in its earliest form at the 2005 legislative session. This opposition has been referred to as a "turf war." It may have appeared that way, but let me assure you that this has always been an issue of PUBLIC SAFETY. Granting licensure is an assurance that the licensee is qualified to do the job for which he/she was trained. I have summarized the differences in education between AT's and PT's on the yellow handout. The AT didactic education is directed toward the care of competitive athletes and the AT practical experience is almost entirely with collegiate athletes. Therefore, based on educational requirements, athletic trainers should be licensed to work exclusively with athletes.

I support this bill as currently written.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Ikeda
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406-728-6858

RE: HB 665 LICENSING AND REGULATING ATHLETIC TRAINERS

COMPARISON OF PHYSICAL THERAPY AND ATHLETIC TRAINING CURRICULUM

| EDUCATIONAL COMPARISON | PHYSICAL THERAPY University of Montana | ATHLETIC TRAINING University of Montana | ATHLETIC TRAINING MSU-Billings |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| Degree | Doctor of PT, 7 years 109 credits + B.S. degree (120+ credits)* | Bachelors of Science, 4 years 122 credits total (56 professional curriculum) | Master of Science 44-47 credits |
| General Orthopedics education | 19-21 credits | 9.5 credits | 6+ credits |
| Patient/client examination | 24+ credits | 6+ credits | 6+ credits |
| Clinical training | 26 credits (all settings) | 12 credits (exclusively athletes) | 3 credits (with athletes) |
| Experience with non-athletes | 1000+ hours | Minimal, if any | Minimal, if any |
| Medical pathology (non-athlete) | 14.5 credits | Minimal | Minimal |
| Neurology | 10 credits | Minimal | Minimal |
| Life-span (pediatrics to geriatrics) | 5 credits | Minimal | Minimal, if any |
| Pharmacology | 1.5 credits | Minimal | Minimal, if any |
| | | | |

*In 2007, over 80% of US physical therapy schools offer an entry-level Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree. The DPT is quickly replacing master's Degree programs. Medicare, and the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education have not accepted a bachelor's degree in physical therapy since 2002.